

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-CERTIFICATION UNIT

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8

ENDORSEMENT IS OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS TEACHING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN WHO ARE NOT OTHERWISE CERTIFIED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. WHEN COMBINED WITH AN ARIZONA ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHING CERTIFICATE OR AN ARIZONA SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING CERTIFICATE, IT MAY BE USED IN LIEU OF A STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATE. PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, HALF DAY AND FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS, EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-1251, FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN PURSUANT TO ARS 15-191.01, AND PUBLIC SCHOOL-ADMINISTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS FUNDED IN WHOLE OR PART WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, SUCH AS THE HEAD START OF EVEN START PROGRAMS, PROVIDED NOTHING IN THESE RULES CONFLICTS WITH THE TERMS OF THE FEDERAL GRANT. EXTENDED DAY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES ARE NOT CONSIDERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS RULE UNLESS THE PROGRAM MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM SET FORTH ABOVE.

➤ **All requirements for the Early Childhood Endorsement must be met. Fees are not refundable.**

1. A valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
2. A valid Arizona Elementary or Special Education Certificate.
3. 21 semester hours of early childhood education courses from an accredited institution to include **all** of the following areas of study **and** a minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum. Practicum must include a minimum of 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool **and** a minimum of 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3.
 - Early childhood education courses shall include **all** of the following areas of study (1) foundations of early childhood education, (2) child guidance and classroom management, (3) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children, (4) child growth and development, including, health, safety and nutrition, (5) child, family, cultural and community relationships, (6) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts, (7) early language and literacy development, (8) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children.
 - **One year** of verified full-time teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from District Superintendent or Program Director of a school – based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience.)
 - **One year** of verified full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.)

➤ **Teachers with a valid Arizona elementary education certificate or Arizona special education certificate as of July 1, 2006 meet the requirements for the Early Childhood Endorsement with evidence of the following:**

1. A minimum of three years infant/toddler, preschool or kindergarten through grade 3 classroom teaching experience within 10 years prior to July 1, 2009 **and**
2. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the AEPA is adopted by the Board. The assessment will be available Fall, 2006.

*PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-534.03, EACH EDUCATOR MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

ALL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPTS, BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.